

OUTGOING MESSAGE

Approved For Release 2002/05/02 : CIA-RDP78S01932A000100190051-2

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CLASSIFICATION

CONFIDENTIAL NFD

MESSAGE HANDLING INDICATOR

DATE-TIME GROUP

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CIA/OC/WH/IZWH 741227

CIA/WHSS

SENSITIVE

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ROUTING	1	4	7	10
	2	5	8	11
	3	6	9	12

IMMEDIATE WHITE HOUSE//SITUATION ROOM FOR MR FAZIO.4

WARNING NOTICE SENSITIVE INTELLIGENCE SOURCES AND METHODS

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VENEZUELAN MAJOR GENERAL HUMBERTO MORET ARELLANO, CHIEF OF THE
STAFF, RECENTLY COMMENTED ON MILITARY DISSATISFACTION WITH
PEREZ GOVERNMENT. HE REPORTEDLY HAS UNDERTAKEN A SERIES OF
TRIPS TO COUNTRIES WHERE THE MILITARY ARE INFLUENTIAL OR IN POWER
TO LINE UP SUPPORT IN THE EVENT THE MILITARY DECIDE TO TAKE CON-
TROL IN VENEZUELA.

THERE HAS BEEN SOME ISOLATED UNHAPPINESS WITH PRESIDENT PEREZ
OVER PROMOTIONS AND OTHER ADMINISTRATIVE POLICIES, BUT THERE ARE
NO INDICATIONS THAT DISCONTENT WITH THE PEREZ ADMINISTRATION IS
WIDESPREAD OR THAT IT IS SHARED BY OFFICERS IN COMMAND POSITIONS.
DEEPLY, MILITARY SUPPORT AND RESPECT FOR THE PRESIDENT IS AT ITS
HIGHEST LEVEL SINCE THE NEW ADMINISTRATION CAME TO POWER IN MARCH

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1974. THUS, AT THE PRESENT TIME THERE ARE NO ECONOMIC OR POLITICAL DEVELOPMENTS IN VENEZUELA THAT WOULD CREATE CONDITIONS FAVORABLE TO A MILITARY TAKEOVER, FROM TIME TO TIME, SOME RIGHT-WING MILITARY OFFICERS ARE REPORTED TO BE PLOTTING AGAINST THE PEREZ GOVERNMENT, BUT THESE OFFICERS ARE LONG TIME MALCONTENTS; THEY HOLD NO COMMAND POSITIONS AND ARE NOT WELL REGARDED BY THEIR PEERS.

MAJOR GENERAL HUMBERTO MORET HAD BEEN THE DEPUTY CHIEF OF THE AIR FORCE BEFORE HIS APPOINTMENT IN MARCH AS CHIEF OF THE JOINT STAFF, A NON-COMMAND POSITION, WHICH IS DIRECTLY RESPONSIBLE TO THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE. HE IS A HIGHLY PROFESSIONAL, WELL QUALIFIED NATIONALISTIC OFFICER WHOSE POLITICAL SYMPATHIES, THOUGH NOT SIGNIFICANT SEEM TO LIE MORE WITH THE OPPOSITION SOCIAL CHRISTIAN PARTY THAN WITH PEREZ' GOVERNING DEMOCRATIC ACTION PARTY. THERE IS NO EVIDENCE OF PREVIOUS "PLOTTING" BY MORET AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT.

THE REPORT THAT MORET PLANS TO GO TO BRAZIL "TO DEVELOP SUPPORT IN THE EVENT THAT CIRCUMSTANCES REQUIRE THE MILITARY TO TAKE CONTROL OF THE VENEZUELAN GOVERNMENT" IS NOT CREDIBLE. TRADITIONAL

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ALIGN FIRST LETTER WITH THIS BOX.

TYPE THE WORD ALIGN TO REGISTER HERE

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VENEZUELAN MILITARY DOCTRINE HOLDS BRAZIL TO BE A POTENTIAL THREAT TO VENEZUELA. TO SUGGEST THAT A HIGH-RANKING VENEZUELAN OFFICER WOULD ATTEMPT TO WIN FOREIGN SUPPORT FOR WHAT WOULD BE AN INTERNAL VENEZUELAN PROBLEM IS INCREDIBLE.

FINALLY WE DO NOT READ ANYTHING OMNINOUS IN THE "LENGTHY PRIVATE CONVERSATION BETWEEN MORET AND DOMINICAN MILITARY LEADERS. THE PEREZ GOVERNMENT IS INTERESTED IN SELLING MILITARY EQUIPMENT TO SANTO DOMINGO, AND IN EXPANDING ITS POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC INFLUENCE WITH THE DOMINICAN GOVERNMENT. THE USE OF THE MILITARY TO FURTHER THESE OBJECTIVES IS NOT AT ALL UNUSUAL. E-2 IMPDET. SPECIAL DISTRIBUTION: WH DIV AND NIO

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